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T. Delane

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## COVER ARTIST

Cover: Hummingbird, by Teresa Delane, Lethbridge, Alberta.

Inside Illustrations: Helene White, Lethbridge, Alberta.
Virginia Lang, Busby, Alberta.

## CASSIN'S FINCH, BAIRD'S SPARROW AND HARRIS'S SPARROW NEW TO BANFF NATIONAL PARK, ALBERTA

by

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Kananaskis Prov. Park
Canmore, Alberta

G.L. Holroyd
Canadian Wildlife Service, Banff

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In 1977 some 8 bird species were observed for the first time in Banff National Park. This note is to document the occurrence of three of these, Cassin's Finch, Baird's Sparrow and Harris's Sparrow.

### (1) Cassin's Finch (Carpodacus cassinii)

On May 31, Brunton, Holroyd and K.A. Grant observed 8 Cassin's Finches at the Douglas feeder on Otter Street, Banff. The presence of several Purple Finches aided significantly in the initial identification. Birds in both adult male and female plumage presented an excellent opportunity for extended observation.

The diagnostic "chee-up" call-note of the Cassin's was heard from several birds. The birds appeared to have slighter bills than those of the nearby Purple Finches. The female plumage birds had significantly finer streaking below than that of the Purple Finches. The raspberry-colored cap of the male Cassin's

contrasted markedly with the less intensive reddish wash of the upper parts. They were much less reddish overall than the male Purple Finches.

The Cassin's Finches stayed at Mrs. Douglas' feeder until well into the summer, although no evidence of breeding was noted. The last known record for them was some time after June 19.

It is perhaps surprising that it was not until 1977 that this species was first noticed in Banff N.P. as it is fairly common in Canmore and has been for some years. (H. Herle, pers. comm.). Cassin's Finch was common in Kananaskis Provincial Park, adjacent to the southern boundary of Banff N.P., in the spring and early summer of 1977 (Brunton, D. Paton).

(2) Baird's Sparrow (Ammodramus bairdii)

A single bird was observed foraging through stable litter on the ground at Brewster's Horse Stables, Banff on May 31, 1977 (Brunton, Holroyd and K.A. Grant). It was in the company of a large group of Savannah and House Sparrows. The presence of 5 Yellow-headed Blackbirds and a male Bobolink, both grasslands species which are rare in Banff, suggests that a movement of prairie birds into the mountains had occurred recently. (At this time, a Yellow-headed Blackbird occurred in Kananaskis Provincial Park).

The bird was paler than the associated Savannahs and appeared to be slightly larger. It lacked the yellow eye stripe of the Savannah (having a white patch behind the eye instead). The larger, pale bill was clearly evident. Fine streaks across its chest formed a "necklace" and a hint of a darkish breast-spot. Fine streaking was apparent on the lower flanks. The head was finely streaked with an evident buffy-white median stripe on the crown. The pale sides of the face accentuated V-shaped streaks near the chin. There was a faint suggestion of a white eye-ring. The tail was relatively short and showed white outer features in flight. The legs were yellowish. Streaking on the back was finer than that of the Savannah's.

It gave no calls or song.

We observed the bird from close range (10 m and less) for 20 minutes and Holroyd made detailed notes (from which this account is written). Subsequent searches several hours later by ourselves and other observers failed to rediscover the bird and it was not seen again.

We found Robbin's guide (Robbins et al. 1966) to be quite inadequate for this species, but the detailed description in Godrey (1966) was excellent.

(3) Harris's Sparrow (Zonotrichia querula)

A single immature bird was observed along the horse trail on the south shore of the Bow River, across from the Cave and Basin, Banff on October 11, 1977. (Brunton and Coneybeare). Our observations were brief (1½ - 2 minutes) but under excellent sunny conditions and at close range (ca. 10 m).

We first noticed the bird when it flew across the trail with a White-crowned Sparrow. It was clearly larger than the latter species. It was also secretive, preferring the thick, lower levels of trailside shrubbery and affording us clear views only reluctantly. None the less, two white wingbars were noted as soon as it perched. We both observed the large bill (darker in comparison to the pink of an immature White-crowned), mottled crown, and heavy black breast splotching across the otherwise clear dusky-white underparts and throat. The head was overall a brownish-tan color with a hint of pinkish and was unstreaked. The wings and tail were uniformly dark. The upper parts were over-all an undistinguished brown color.

In response to our "pishing", the bird uttered a loud, metallic, cardinal-like "Plink" call. No other vocalization was noted. The bird was not seen again.

Two adult Harris's Sparrows subsequently appeared at a feeder in Banff in late November and remained until early December

(J. Peatfield, pers. comm.). It seems then that at least 3 Harris's were present in Banff in the fall and early winter of 1977.

## Conclusion

The Baird's Sparrow was far from normal range and was probably a legitimate accidental in the mountains at Banff. This record is apparently the first for the Rocky Mountains.

Cassin's Finch, however, is probably regular in Banff. Mrs. Douglas, at whose feeder the birds were found, has noted them at her feeder for some years (pers. comm.). In Waterton Lakes National Park, Cassin's Finch is considered a very rare breeding species (Sharp 1973). Recent observations in Jasper National Park indicate that it may nest there (Salt 1977). Cassin's Finch may well breed in Banff National Park.

Similarly, Harris's Sparrow is likely a rare migrant through the mountains. It is considered to be a very rare migrant in Jasper National Park (Kerasiuk, pers. comm.). Its secretive habits and migration late in the fall when fewer birders are afield may well have conspired to obscure its real status in Banff.

## Literature Cited

Godfrey, W.E. 1966. The Birds of Canada. National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.

Robbins, C.S. et al. 1966. Birds of North America Golden Press, New York.

Salt, W.R. 1977. Cassin's Finch at Jasper. Alberta Naturalist 7:1 (31 - 33).

Sharp, P.L. 1973. Birds of Waterton Lakes National Park (Unpublished Report) Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton.

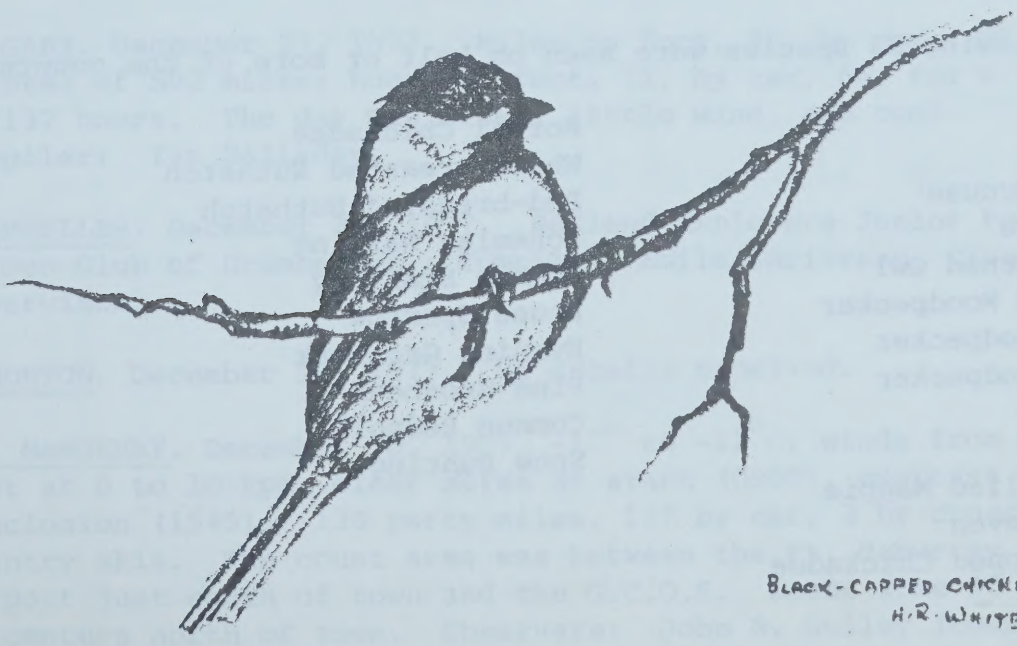
## ALBERTA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 1977

Compiled by
Virginia Lang, R.R. 1, Busby, Alberta.

Twelve Christmas Bird Counts were conducted in Alberta this year, down three from 1976. Three new areas were covered: Drumheller, Ft. McMurray and Waterton Lakes. 44,292 individual birds representing 91 species were reported. The number of species increased by seven, over 1976, but the number of individual birds was down by 4,858. The most striking disparity which may, in part, account for the decrease in individuals is that of Bohemian Waxwings: 26,168 in 1976 compared to only 14,040 in 1977.

The Banff/Canmore count recorded the most species, 50, followed closely by Calgary with 49 species.

The results of this year's Christmas Bird Counts are presented by count area in Table 1.



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE
H.R. WHITE

Of the 91 species recorded, 27 were seen on only one count, and 15 were seen on only two counts. Banff/Canmore led the number of species seen only on one count with eight. Wabamun Lake and Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada contributed seven species seen on only one count. The species recorded on only one count were:

Horned Grebe
Eared Grebe
Canada Goose
Pintail
Blue-Winged Teal
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
Cooper's Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Golden Eagle
Prairie Falcon
White-tailed Ptarmigan
Killdeer
Common Snipe
Glaucous Gull
Barred Owl
Great Gray Owl
Boreal Owl
Steller's Jay
Cedar Waxwing
Western Meadowlark
Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Lapland Longspur

The following 23 species were seen on half or more of the counts:

Mallard
Goshawk
Ruffed Grouse
Rock Dove
Great Horned Owl
Pileated Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Gray Jay
Blue Jay
Black-billed Magpie
Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Boreal Chickadee
White-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Nuthatch
Bohemian Waxwing
Common Starling
House Sparrow
Evening Grosbeak
Pine Grosbeak
Common Redpoll
Snow Bunting

Details of each count, as they were forwarded to me, are listed below. If additional details are required, check with the compiler of each count.

BANFF/CANMORE. December 17, 1977. Party hours: on foot, 75; by car, 14; at feeders, 21. Party miles: on foot, 93; by car, 149. Observers: Gwen Andre, Allan Brooks, Dan Brunton, Ed Carleton, Joel Christensen, Howard Coneybeare, Jayne Coneybeare, Sheila Douglas, Mary Dyer, Halle Flygare, Ruth Gordon, Bruce Gordon, Karen Grant, Terry Hammell, Aileen Harmon, H. Herrle, Geoffrey Holroyd, Elizabeth Holroyd, Mary Hudson, Dave Kraby, Keith McDougall, Margie McDougall, Diane McIvor, Mike MvIvor, Gordon Morris, Harold Mortimer, Nancy Murray, Bunty Nelson, Tony Orru, Brian Patton, Louise Patton, Morna Schechtel, Claire Storey, Mary Tubb, Kevin VanTighen, Art Wilson, Glen Webber.

BOW SUMMIT. December 31, 1977. Observers: Margaret & Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Allan Brooks, Bruce Gordon, Ruth Gordon, Elizabeth Holroyd, Geoffrey Holroyd, Dave Kraby, Lloyd Lohr, Margie McDougall, Diane McIvor, Mike McIvor (Compiler), Nancy Murray, Gerry Wilkie.

CALGARY. December 27, 1977. Miles on foot, 91, by car, 491, for a total of 582 miles; hours on foot, 71, by car, 66, for a total of 137 hours. The day was clear, little wind, and cool. Compiler: Ian Halladay.

DRUMHELLER. December 28, 1977. Badland Explorers Junior Forest Warden Club of Drumheller. Compiler: Emile Garitreau, Club Supervisor.

EDMONTON. December 18, 1977. No details received.

FT. McMURRAY. December 28, 1977. $-17^{\circ}$ to $-12^{\circ}$C; winds from the west at 0 to 10 kph; clear skies at start (0900), overcast at conclusion (1545). 139 party miles, 137 by car, 2 by cross-country skis. The count area was between the Ft. McMurray airport just south of town and the G.C.O.S. Lease some 40 kilometers north of town. Observers: John R. Gulley (compiler), Sherry Gulley.

LETHBRIDGE. December 27, 1977. Temperature, -2 to -10°C; sunny; wind variable from calm to brisk. Prairie lakes, marshland, dryland, coulees, river valleys and city parks within a twenty-mile radius of Lethbridge. Observers: Betty Haig, Dr. and Mrs. Bob Hall, Dorothy Harrop, Mike Harrop, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Harper, Duncan MacIntosh, Louis McKillop, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Merrick, Grant Nelson, Michael O'Shea, Sheila Petherbridge, Dr. D.W.A. Roberts, Gordon Ross, Wilkinson Family, Mrs. A.R.F. Williams, Stephen Williams.

RED DEER. December 26, 1977. Sunny, -10°C, calm. Observers: John Fuller, Erling Glabais, Margaret Glabais, Herb Harris, Helen Harris, Ley Harris, Bob Marston, Eldon Neufeld, Jennifer O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, Beth Peck, Jim Posey, Kerry Wood, Marjorie Wood, Randy Wood.

STETTLER. December 18, 1977. -11°C, frosty, overcast, light snow. Total party miles: 238. Area covered: 15 miles radius of Stettler and one trip to Big Knife Park. 18 observers.

WABAMUN LAKE. December 17, 1977. Count centre, the junction of Highways 16 and 765. Observers: Peter Assmann, Reiner Ebel (compiler), Eric Emery, Graeme Greenlee, Charles Harper, Ken Lumbis, Mike Palindat, Richard Ralindat, Jack Park, Alan Smith, Terry Thormin.

WATERTON LAKES. December 26, 1977.

WILDLIFE RESERVE OF WESTERN CANADA. January 2, 1978. Sunshine, 5-6" snow.

## OVERHEARD (75)

"The average amount of solid waste generated in Canada is 4.4 pounds per person per day".

"Outdoors Unlittered", Mar.-Apr. 1978

Table 1. Results of the 1977 Alberta Christmas Bird Counts.

| | Banff/ Canmore | Bow Summit | Calgary | Drumheller | Edmonton | Ft. McMurray | Lethbridge | Red Deer | Stettler | Wabamum Lakes | Waterton Lakes | Wildlife Reserve | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Horned Grebe | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Eared Grebe | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Canada Goose | | | 43 | | | | | | | | | | 43 |
| Mallard | 197 | 1 | 4086 | | 92 | | 200 | | 5 | 692 | 1 | 1 | 5275 |
| Gadwall | | | 1 | | | | | | | 3 | | | 4 |
| Pintail | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Green-winged Teal | 5 | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | 10 |
| Blue-winged Teal | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| American Wigeon | | | 1 | | | | | | | 35 | | | 36 |
| Redhead | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Ring-necked Duck | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Lesser Scaup | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Common Goldeneye | 61 | | 974 | | 16 | | | | | 286 | 3 | | 1340 |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | | | 8 | | | | | | | | 3 | | 11 |
| Bufflehead | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 1 | | 6 |
| Common Marganser | 9 | | 49 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 2 | | | 63 |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Goshawk | 2 | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 8 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Hawk sp. | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Golden Eagle | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Bald Eagle | | | 3 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 5 |

Table 1. contd.

| | Banff/ Canmore | Bow Summit | Calgary | Drumheller | Edmonton | Ft. McMurray | Lethbridge | Red Deer | Stettler | Wabamun Lakes | Waterton Lakes | Wildlife Reserve | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prairie Falcon | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Merlin | 1 | | 9 | | 11 | | | 3 | 1 | | | | 25 |
| American Kestrel | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Spruce Grouse | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 4 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 14 | | | | 2 | 13 | 1 | 25 | 60 |
| White-tailed Ptarmigan | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Sharp-tailed Grouse | | | 2 | | | | 4 | | 1 | 26 | | 12 | 45 |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | | | 9 | 3 | 12 | | 16 | | | | | | 40 |
| Gray Partridge | | | 276 | | 155 | | 150 | | | 25 | | | 606 |
| American Coot | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Killdeer | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Common Snipe | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| Glaucous Gull | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Rock Dove | 1 | | 1676 | | 575 | | 135 | 147 | 2 | | | 45 | 2581 |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 | | 10 | | 10 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 27 |
| Snowy Owl | | | 16 | | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | 19 |
| Pygmy Owl | 3 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 7 | 12 |
| Barred Owl | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Great Gray Owl | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Short-eared Owl | | | 2 | | 1 | | 8 | | | | | | 11 |
| Boreal Owl | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Saw-whet Owl | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Owl sp. | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Common Flicker | | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | |

Table 1. contd.

| | Banff/ Canmore | Bow Summit | Calgary | Drumheller | Edmonton | Ft. McMurray | Lethbridge | Red Deer | Stettler | Wabamun Lakes | Waterton Lakes | Wildlife Reserve | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hairy Woodpecker | 7 | | 3 | 1 | 19 | 3 | | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 62 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 2 | | 27 | | 26 | | 14 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 106 |
| Nor. 3-toed Woodpecker | 3 | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 8 |
| Blk.-backed 3-toed Woodpecker | | | | | 5 | | | | | | | 1 | 6 |
| Horned Lark | | | 332 | | | | 770 | | 1 | | | | 1103 |
| Gray Jay | 39 | 14 | | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | 23 | 2 | 44 | 128 |
| Blue Jay | | | | | 111 | 4 | | 15 | 11 | 37 | | 13 | 191 |
| Steller's Jay | | | | | | | | | | | 11 | | 11 |
| Blk.-billed Magpie | 134 | | 880 | + | 620 | | 246 | 48 | 59 | 89 | 32 | 198 | 2306 |
| Common Raven | 201 | 7 | 15 | | | 311 | | | | | 10 | 23 | 567 |
| Common Crow | 34 | | 14 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 52 |
| Clark's Nutcracker | 46 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 6 | | 53 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 122 | | 400 | + | 579 | 24 | 85 | 78 | 51 | 232 | 29 | 260 | 1860 |
| Mountain Chickadee | 128 | 8 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 1 | 141 |
| Boreal Chickadee | 60 | 15 | 17 | | 8 | | | 13 | | 13 | | 85 | 211 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 7 | | 9 | | 11 | | 5 | 6 | | 7 | | | 45 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 2 | | | | 3 | | | 3 | | 1 | 5 | 1 | 15 |
| Brown Creeper | 8 | 2 | 1 | | 4 | | | | | | | | 15 |
| American Dipper | 50 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 60 |
| American Robin | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Townsend's Solitaire | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | 13 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | | | | | 2 | | 11 |
| Bohemian Waxwing | 107 | | 5917 | + | 7286 | | 197 | 339 | 98 | 57 | 36 | 3 | 14040 |

Table 1. contd.

| | Banff/ Canmore | Bow Summit | Calgary | Drumheller | Edmonton | Ft. McMurray | Lethbridge | Red Deer | Stettler | Wabamun Lakes | Waterton Lakes | Wildlife Reserve | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cedar Waxwing | | | | | 31 | | | | | | | | 31 |
| Northern Shrike | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | 6 | | 1 | 9 |
| Common Starling | 28 | | 305 | | 23 | | 156 | 22 | 3 | | | 1 | 538 |
| House Sparrow | 340 | | 1356 | + | 792 | 102 | 850 | 84 | 79 | 85 | | 193 | 3881 |
| Western Meadowlark | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Rusty Blackbird | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Brewer's Blackbird | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Blackbird sp. | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Evening Grosbeak | 74 | | 169 | + | 674 | 10 | | 156 | | 18 | 10 | | 1111 |
| Purple Finch | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pine Grosbeak | 160 | | 315 | 12 | 512 | | 32 | 29 | 40 | 46 | | 146 | 1292 |
| Hoary Redpoll | 6 | | 12 | | 12 | | | | | 3 | | 120 | 153 |
| Common Redpoll | 81 | | 1168 | | 1016 | 280 | 199 | 6 | 122 | 413 | | 460 | 3745 |
| Pine Siskin | | | 3 | | 2 | | | | | | | | 5 |
| Red Crossbill | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 2 | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| Tree Sparrow | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | 5 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Lapland Longspur | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Snow Bunting | 61 | | 2 | | 48 | | 200 | | 209 | 637 | | 1050 | 2207 |
| Total No. Species | 50 | 10 | 49 | 9 | 41 | 10 | 21 | 18 | 20 | 41 | 23 | 40 | |
| Total No. Individuals | 2022 | 54 | 18136 | 19 | 12690 | 739 | 3273 | 966 | 697 | 2790 | 170 | 2736 | 44292 |
| Total No. Observers | 37 | 14 | 50 | 18 | - | 3 | 24 | 16 | 18 | 11 | 12 | 36 | |

GOLD FINCH ON GOAT'S BEARD

## SOUTHERN MORESBY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

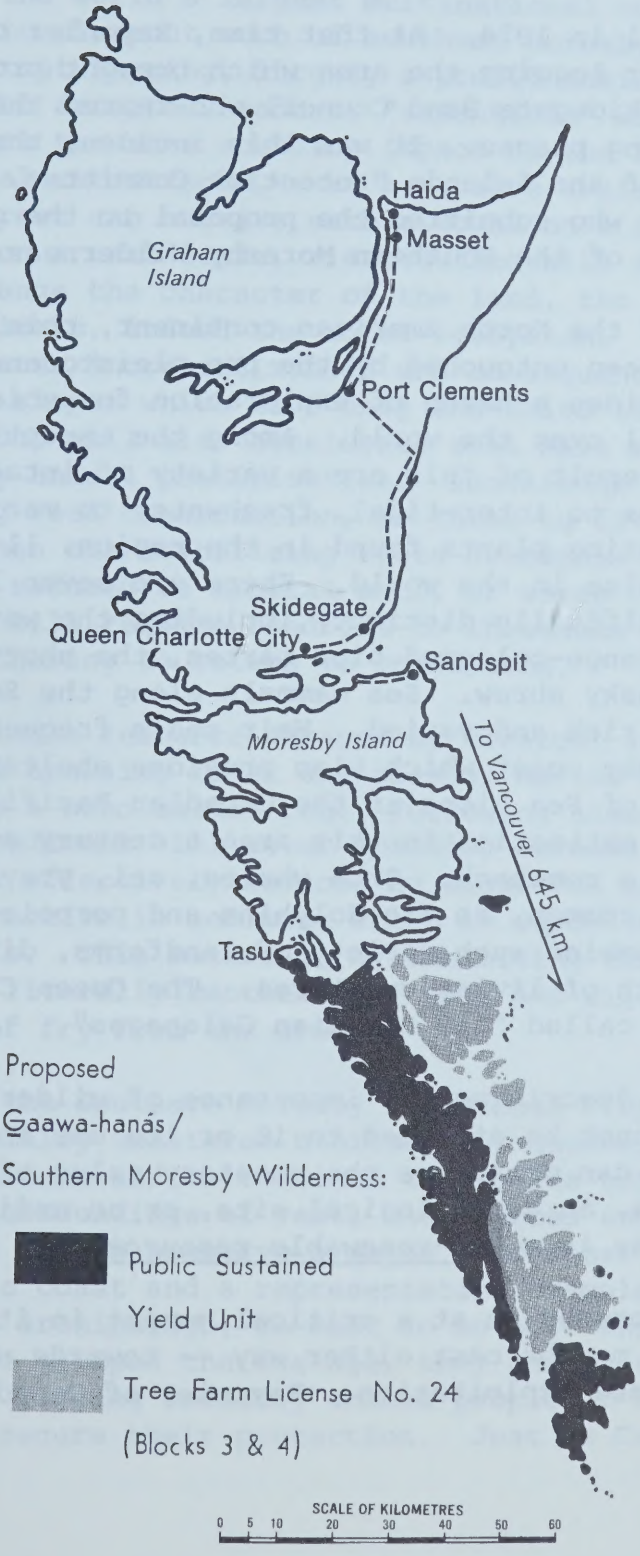
Submitted by Nancie Batley
Islands Protection Committee, P.O. Box 302,
Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, B. C.

Approximately 80 miles off the mainland coast of British Columbia lies the most isolated body of land in Canada -- the Queen Charlotte Islands. There are many outstanding features about these islands that make them unique, particularly the southern portion of the islands, now often referred to as the Southern Moresby Wilderness area.

The 550 sq. mile (1436 sq. km.) area is a microcosm of the Pacific Coast with its snow-capped mountains, alpine meadows, virgin rain forests, and sandy beaches. It encompasses over 200 islands as well as a coastline which spreads out for 670 miles (1696 km.); more coastline than is now protected in all existing Parks, Park Reserves, and Ecological Reserves on the B.C. coast combined.

But what makes this area so unique other than its overwhelming beauty? Besides boasting some of the world's largest and oldest Red Cedar, Yellow Cypress, and Sitka Spruce trees, the area also provides nesting sites for over 25% of the total population of seabirds along the Pacific Flyway. This includes the endangered Trumpeter Swan, and the Saw-Whet Owl, one of the three birds sub-specifically distinct on the islands. It is not uncommon to see such birds as the Pigeon Guillemot, Cassin's Auklet, Tufted Puffin, and the Ancient Murrelet as one passes from one island to another, and the bald eagle is still a common sight along the shores of these islands. The Southern Moresby Wilderness Area also provides a home for over 25% of B.C.'s Peale's Peregrine Falcons.

Over 95% of this wilderness area has been undisturbed by man, although for thousands of years the Haida people lived off this land and still continue to do so, at places like Burnaby Narrows, which is a traditional food gathering location for the Haidas and has some of the most productive clam beds in existence. It was a dispute over Burnaby Island that brought about the Southern Moresby


Haida
Masset
Graham Island
Port Clements
Skidegate
Queen Charlotte City
Sandspit
Moresby Island
To Vancouver 645 km
Tasu
Proposed
Gaawa-hanás /
Southern Moresby Wilderness:
Public Sustained Yield Unit
Tree Farm License No. 24
(Blocks 3 & 4)
SCALE OF KILOMETRES
0 5 10 20 30 40 50 60

Wilderness Proposal in 1974. At that time, Rayonier of Canada Ltd., had plans for logging the area which brought protests of concern from the Skidegate Band Council who feared the loss of their food gathering places. It was this incident that resulted in the formation of the Islands Protection Committee, a group of concerned citizens who submitted the proposal to the government for the protection of the Southern Moresby Wilderness Area.

Unlike the rest of the North American continent, this area is believed to have been untouched by the pre-pleistocene ice age, and therefore provides a haven of exploration for scientists and biologists from all over the world. Among the exceptional features to be found as a result of this are a variety of intact ecosystems ranging from alpine to inter-tidal, freshwater to marine. Of the 600 kinds of flowering plants found in the region, 11 of these are unknown anywhere else in the world. There are seven land mammals which are sub-specifically distinct, including the world's largest black bear, the orange-coloured pine marten, the short-tailed weasel, and the dusky shrew. Sea mammals along the Southern Moresby coast are rich and varied. Hair seals frequent all of the Southern Moresby coast which also provides shelter for the largest rookeries of Sea Lions in the Canadian Pacific, and sea otters, hunted to extinction in this area a century ago, are reportedly making a comeback. Orca whales, sei, grey and right whales are fairly common, as are dolphins and porpoises. Few areas of Canada combine such variety of landforms, diversity of species, and wealth of living creatures. The Queen Charlotte Islands have been called "the Canadian Galapagos".

The difficulty in describing the importance of wilderness is that a dollar value cannot be attached to it or its use and enjoyment, any more than one can determine the monetary value of a rare and endangered species, an archeological site, or an undisturbed ecosystem. Wilderness is a Non-renewable resource.

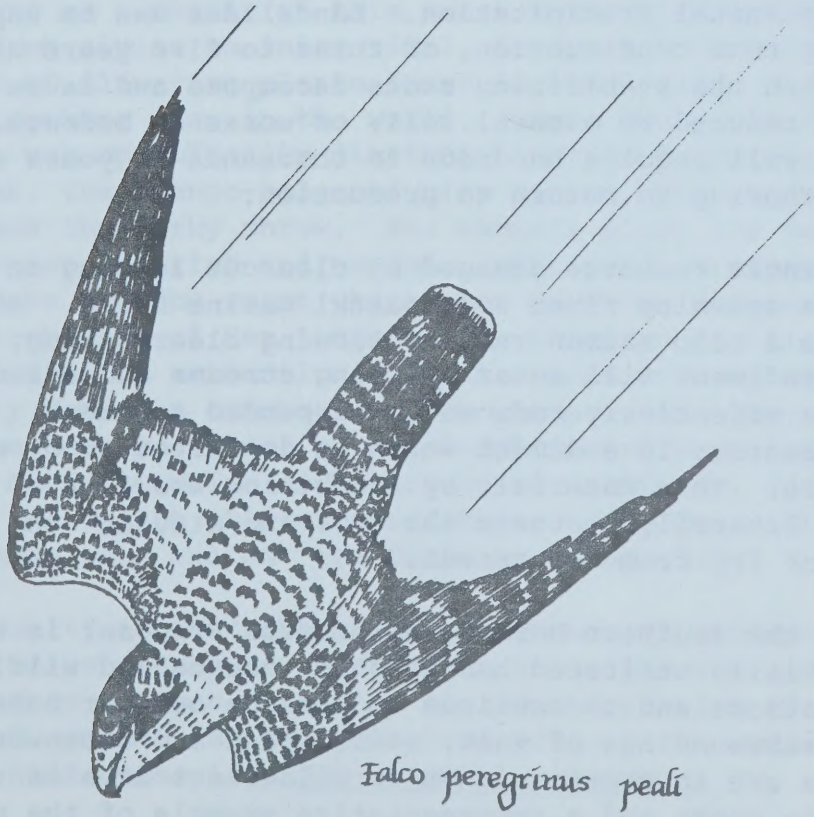
Today, Southern Moresby is at a critical moment in its history where the balance may be cast either way -- towards preservation or towards increased exploitation. Rayonier of Canada Ltd., a

subsidiary of the world's largest multinational corporation, I.T.T., plans to clearcut much of southern Moresby's virgin forests. Clearcut logging, largely a profit-making short-cut of industry, is the accepted, modern, "scientific" method, but clearcutting has the same wounding impact on the forest as any enormous natural catastrophe -- as a massive avalanche or earthquake. The forest can survive such a wound on a small scale. But practiced on a vast scale, clearcutting will inevitably and irrevocably change the character of the land, the streams, the plants, the animals, indeed the total ecosystem. Clearcutting can not only cause increased runoff and subsequent erosion to the steep mountain slopes which have only one-third the topsoil of the bottom lands, but will also accelerate soil mass movements in this region of heavy annual precipitation. Landslides can be expected to occur during road construction, or three to five years after clearcutting when the stabilizing roots decompose and cause slope failure. Once reduced to mineral soil, or worse -- bedrock, the disturbed land will require hundreds to thousands of years of slow geological weathering to return to production.

The greatest single resource damaged by clearcut logging on these islands will be spawning river and coastal marine areas. Almost every creek has a coho salmon run. Following clearcutting, prodigious quantities of sediment will enter spawning streams and salmon production will be effectively reduced by suspended sediment. Probably much more destructive is sediment which is deposited on or within spawning gravels. This material, by inhibiting the flow of oxygen-bearing water, literally smothers the eggs and alevins and blocks the emergence of fry from the gravel.

The purpose of the Southern Moresby Wilderness Proposal is to maintain essentially unaltered habitats for unexcelled wildlife and fish populations and to continue to provide outdoor human experience in surroundings of vast, undisturbed and uncrowded country. If we are to preserve a major wilderness area on the Canadian Pacific coast and a representative example of the unique Queen Charlotte archipelago, we must do so <u>now</u>. Though these islands may have escaped the ice age, they cannot and will not escape from the logging industry unless people of B.C. and Canada act quickly to secure their protection. Just as Canada's great

eastern white pine forests, the redwoods of California and the Douglas-fir forests of Vancouver Island fell to the insatiable demands of the timber industry, so too do these magnificent spruce, cedar, and hemlock forests seem destined to vanish. Logging of this precious area would reduce it to one more vista of barren hills, littered streams and beaches, and end, probably forever, the fragile ecosystem on which our fellow creatures, now surviving in these last retreats, depend. Left as it is, it will give pleasure and enchantment to generations still to come.



# LAKE NEWELL: COLONIAL BIRDS IN JEOPARDY

by
Wayne Nordstrom,
Provincial Parks Division,
Recreation, Parks and Wildlife,
Government of Alberta.

Lake Newell has been and remains one of the prime waterbodies for bird life in the Province. Its unique location in the precipitation-starved region of southern Alberta has provided much-needed and valuable habitat for scores of migrant and resident avifauna. The shores, bays, and islands that were created as a result of the construction of the Lake Newell Reservoir in the early part of the century have now become a valuable natural resource for thousands of birds that use these areas for nesting purposes.

Lake Newell, owned and managed by the Eastern Irrigation District (E.I.D.) with headquarters in Brooks, has operated at Full Supply Levels (F.S.L.) of about 2482 feet (CPR datum). Present plans by the E.I.D. will result in an additional three feet of water being added to the reservoir in the near future (within one to two years). Full supply level will then be at 2485, the E.I.D.'s legal limit. Dikes were strengthened the summer of 1977 in anticipation of higher water levels.

The creation of suitable and available habitat attracts birds. Birds attract a variety of individuals: most well-meaning; some destructive. Lake Newell has both. The brunt of attention has centered on two islands located at the south end of the reservoir. One of the islands attracts thousands of breeding Ring-billed Gulls; the other, Pelican Island, hosts hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants, White Pelicans and California Gulls. Several studies, banding programs and censuses have been conducted on these two islands. All workers attest to the attractiveness of these islands, particularly Pelican Island, as nesting sites for colonial species.

Ring-billed and California Gulls have nested on Lake Newell since the early 1920's. Both species nest on a flat island located about

0.75 miles to the southeast of Pelican Island. Maximum elevation is about 2517 feet, only 1-1.5 feet above the present F.S.L. It will be completely inundated when Full Supply Levels of 2519 feet are attained.

Portions of the island are ringed by balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera) and peachleaf willow (Salix amygdaloides). The remainder is dominated by dense growths of false ragweed (Iva xanthifolia), summer cypress (Kochia scoparia), and cocklebur (Xanthium strumarium). I. xanthifolia becomes virtually impenetrable by humans in late summer, often reaching heights of seven feet.

The Provincial Museum censused the Ring-billed Gull colony on May 16, 1976. There were 6091 Ring-billed Gull nests, 65 California Gull nests and 9 Common Tern nests on the island at that time. A nest census was also conducted on May 9-10, 1977, by C. Weseloh and the author. There were 5232 Ring-billed Gull nests and 82 California Gull Nests counted. These figures make this island the largest Ring-billed Gull colony in Alberta.

The other nesting island, Pelican Island, has been gradually eroding from water and ice action. It apparently was considerably larger in the past (pers. comm., S. Bayer). Presently, the island is about 340 feet long and 75 feet wide, approximately one-half acre and has sparse growths of vegetation, primarily false ragweed and summer cypress. The steep north-facing bank rises to about 8-10 feet in height. The highest point on the island is 2524.4 feet (geodetic data), only five feet above the projected F.S.L. The majority of the island is a mere 2.5 feet above F.S.L. Considering the fetch of water to the north, it is not uncommon for winds to produce waves in the order of three feet in height. The tremendous sheering forces of ice that would act on the exposed 2.5 feet is another matter for concern.

A White Pelican colony became established on the island soon after the lake was formed. Randall (1946) recorded 170 nesting pairs in 1945. Soper (1952) reported 171 pelicans, 157 nests, and 478 eggs for May 31, 1951. Lies and Behle (1966) stated that the colony of about 20 adults produced only 5 young during

1963. By 1966, only 27 nests were reported (Vermeer, 1969). No pelicans nested in 1967. Harassment and vandalism by humans is suspected to be the primary cause of the decline in pelican nesting success. In 1977, pelicans again nested on the island. Recreation, Parks, and Wildlife personnel visited the island about June 6 and estimated about 200 eggs present on the mid-easterly portion of the island. Other reports stated about 24 nests were present (pers. comm., S. Brechtel). At any rate, nesting was unsuccessful and the cause was probably due to disturbance.

Pelican Island has also been a traditional nesting site for Double-crested Cormorants for several years. Randall (1946) recorded about 25 pairs in 1945. Soper (1952) reported 52 adults, 37 nests, and 118 eggs on May 31, 1951. Subsequent censuses resulted in 148 nests in 1967 (Vermeer, 1969), 232 nests in 1969, 444 nests in 1971, 564 nests in 1976, and 665 nests in 1977 being recorded. Obviously the island is becoming an increasingly important nesting site for this species. This colony is the largest one in Alberta.

California and Ring-billed Gulls also nest on Pelican Island. Usually more California Gulls nest here than Ring-bills; the latter preferring to nest on their traditional island to the southeast. Soper (1951) reported 2580 California Gull nests and 1930 Ring-billed Gull nests on the island in late May of 1951. At present, California Gulls nest around the periphery of the cormorant colony and occupy all elevations of the island from shoreline to the top of the island. In 1976, H. Carr estimated between 1000-1800 pairs, which makes this colony one of the largest gull colonies in the Province.

A three foot increase in lake water levels would inundate about one-third to one-half of the nesting area of the California Gulls on Pelican Island. This undoubtedly would result in increased competition for nesting sites from displaced and aggressive gulls. Displaced gulls, according to H. Carr would have several options: (1) they may move to more elevated areas on Pelican Island and thus nest more densely than previously, (2) they may move to the

island immediately south of Pelican Island, (3), they may move to a newly created island, or (4) they may move out of the Lake Newell area entirely. If option #1 occurs, then very intense nest site competition would probably occur between cormorants and gulls. Considering that California gulls are very aggressive they may force the cormorants off and away from their nests. It is H. Carr's feeling that the "displaced gulls may well be the single greatest threat to the safety and continued presence of nesting cormorants on Lake Newell".

During early spring Canada Geese also utilize Pelican Island for nesting. On April 13, 1977 the author located ten nests here containing a total of 45 eggs. Most of the nests were located to the east of the structural nests of the cormorants. Other species of waterbirds have also been observed nesting on Pelican Island: Common Terns, various ducks, shorebirds, etc.

Considering the prime resources of these islands, the planned rise of lake water levels produced considerable concern on the part of those agencies and individuals involved in preserving resources such as this. It was hoped that some type of physical protection to Pelican Island could be constructed to prevent further erosion and eventual destruction of the island. Alberta Environment provided cost estimates of about $136,000. A similar project in Colorado is costing them about $180,000. Physical protection to do an adequate job is going to cost a substantial amount of money, assuming water levels reach the F.S.L. and there is very little reason to assume they won't.

The Fish and Wildlife and Provincial Parks Divisions are particularly involved and concerned with the protection and preservation of the colonial bird resources on Lake Newell. The Fish and Wildlife Division was instrumental in having Double-crested Cormorants and White Pelicans declared as endangered species in the Province. Several nesting sites, including Pelican Island, were declared as prohibited access wildlife areas as of November 15, 1977. These areas are prohibited to access by people closer than one-half mile between April 15 to September 15, inclusive. Both Divisions will be involved in providing adequate signs and

buoy-markers in strategic locations on the lake in an effort to educate and warn the public.

Pelican Island and the Ring-billed Gull nesting island are in jeopardy. Human disturbance, rising water levels and increased erosion are the culprits. Soper (1951) warned at that time of potential problems and recommended protection. Finally, over 20 years later, some action is being taken. It is time that more Albertans begin listening to and "reading the signs" of the effects of various commercial developments upon our natural resources. As has been said so many times before, the ultimate health of humanity is closely related to the health and vigor of our natural environment. Should we sit back without voicing our concerns about such issues as the possible annihilation of the largest cormorant and gull colonies in the Province because of the increasing demands for irrigation water? Even if there is a legal right to increase water levels, is there a moral right? If this concern tugs at your conscience, why not do something about it?

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OVERHEARD (76)

"We are getting to the point where, if a community in this country boasts that it is the most rapidly growing community, it is like someone saying he has the fastest growing cancer in town".

Walter Baker, M.P., House of Commons Speech.

Callosamia moth
larva (after Riley)
Wang '78

# HIGHLIGHTS OF WINTER, 1977-78, BIRDS - SOUTHERN ALBERTA

by
Rudi Butot
81 Capri Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2L OG9

Winter set in shortly after the middle of November as temperatures dropped to -25°C. It turned colder during the early part of December, with low temperatures near - 35°C. January was raw, cold, and often windy. Close to twelve inches of snow fell during several storms that month. February continued cold, with temperatures from five to ten degrees below average. Chinooks were few and far between this winter and, although March was a month with exceptionally low precipitation, the countryside remained covered in a blanket of snow.

A late Trumpter Swan was sighted near Carseland on 17 December. A flock of forty Canada Geese and over four thousand Mallards, one Gadwall, five Green-winged Teal and one American Wigeon wintered over in Calgary. Also present were close to one thousand Common Goldeneyes, eight Barrow's Goldeneyes, and forty-nine Common Mergansers.

A Golden Eagle was seen in Calgary on 20 December, and three Bald Eagles were reported on 27 December, two on 9 January, and two were reported from near Carseland on 11 December. A Gyrfalcon was seen twice in Calgary this winter. Prairie Falcons were reported from Dogpound 2 January and Cochrane 31 January.

Snowy Owl numbers were again low this winter, and reports of Great Horned Owls were few, although ten were reported on the Calgary bird count. Pygmy Owls were well-reported this winter, and Great Gray Owl reports were more numerous this winter than in previous years. Short-eared Owls were reported from Shepard, Calgary and Water Valley. One Saw-whet Owl was reported from Cochrane on 24 January, and individuals were reported near Harmatton and near Bearberry on 11 January.

One Belted Kingfisher was seen on the Calgary bird count, and a single Common Flicker was reported in Calgary during December and part of January. Downy Woodpeckers were well-reported from many places, but Hairy Woodpeckers were less abundant. A Black-

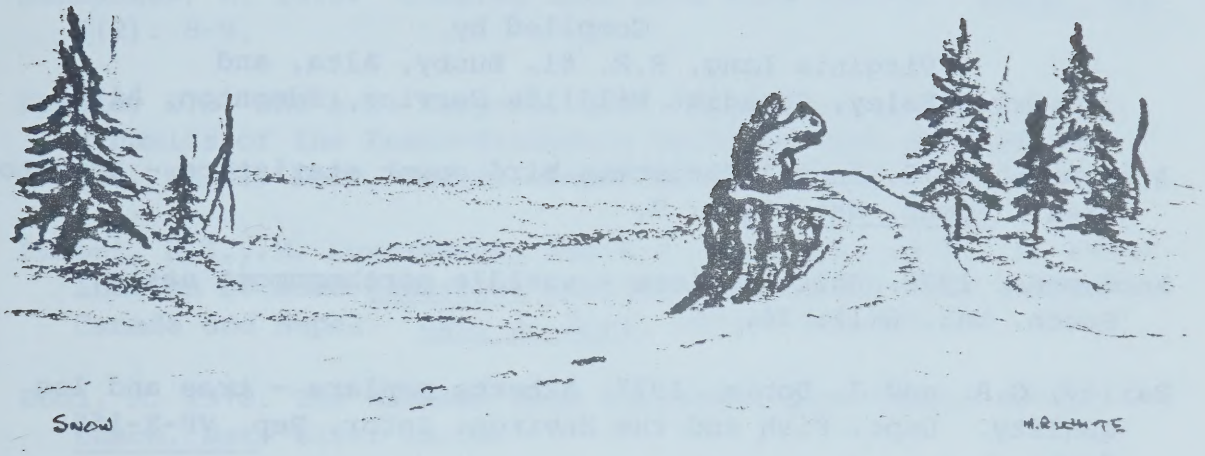
backed 3-toed Woodpecker was seen in Calgary on 11 and 19 February, and one was seen on the bird count at the Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada. Northern 3-toed Woodpeckers were reported from Calgary, Bottrel and Water Valley.

Small flocks of Horned Larks were reported during the winter from Langdon and Cochrane. Small numbers of Blue Jays were reported from Elkton, Dogpound, Cremona and Water Valley. Common Crows were present throughout the winter in small numbers. Black-capped Chickadees were abundant, Boreal Chickadees were not uncommon, but only a few Mountain Chickadees were reported. The largest number of White-breasted Nuthatches - nine - was reported from Calgary on the bird count. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from Water Valley and Bottrel. Brown Creepers were reported from Canmore and Calgary.

Up to four American Dippers were seen in Calgary this winter. The occasional American Robin was reported from Calgary. Bohemian Waxwings seemed less abundant than in previous years, and no Cedar Waxwings were reported from our area this winter. Northern Shrike reports increased again over last year, with sightings coming from Water Valley, Sundre, Bottrel, Carseland, Bearberry and Calgary. Evening Grosbeaks were not as numerous as in other years, but Pine Grosbeaks were reported in small numbers from many places this winter.

Common Redpolls were abundant this winter, and most feeders had a small resident flock throughout the winter, with occasional Hoary Redpolls amongst them. Snow Buntings were abundant in our area this winter. Some of the larger concentrations reported were: Langdon, three hundred on 4 December, five hundred on 1 January; Cochrane, three hundred on 4 December; Elkton, five hundred on 12 January; Water Valley, thirteen hundred on 2 January; and Bergen, three hundred on 12 January.

More detailed observations for the 1977-78 winter period can be found in the winter and early spring issues of The Calgary Field Naturalist.




OVERHEARD (77)

"In the average home, lighting accounts for 2% of the energy consumed, while the family car uses up 56% according to Mr. George Cornish, Calgary Commissioner for Planning and Transportation. 'Lighting is tremendously efficient now. If the motor industry had progressed as quickly as the lighting industry, we would be getting 800 miles to the gallon.' " From "Outdoors Unlittered", Mar. - Apr. 1978.

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Virginia Lang, R.R. #1, Busby, Alta, and
David Ealey, Canadian Wildlife Service, Edmonton, Alta.

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## EDITOR'S PAGE

You have no doubt noticed the Alberta Naturalist has been late in getting to you. To offset any delays in typing, proofreading or printing which may occur, deadlines for submission of material have been revised as follows:

January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15.

On behalf of FAN members, I extend a welcome to our newest corporate member club, the Trumpeter Swan Naturalists' Society, Wembley. We wish them well, and look forward to their participation in FAN.

I would like to thank Helene White of Lethbridge for generously contributing a selection of small drawings for use in the Alberta Naturalist. Drawings from other Alberta naturalists/artists would be most welcomed.

## OVERHEARD (78)

Neighbors and Conservation

"While we tried to preserve as much as possible of the original vegetation on our lot, we had no control over the lots of our neighbors".

Anders H. Anderson and Anne Anderson, 1973.
"The Cactus Wren", p. 10.

## FAN NEWS, PROJECTS, REPORTS

### Upcoming FAN Meetings

- Mid-Summer Outing, Kananaskis Park and Kananaskis Country, July 22 and 23, Saturday and Sunday. Camping and hiking.

- Autumn Outing and Executive Meeting, Edmonton. Sept. 23-24, 78.

Saturday, September 23.

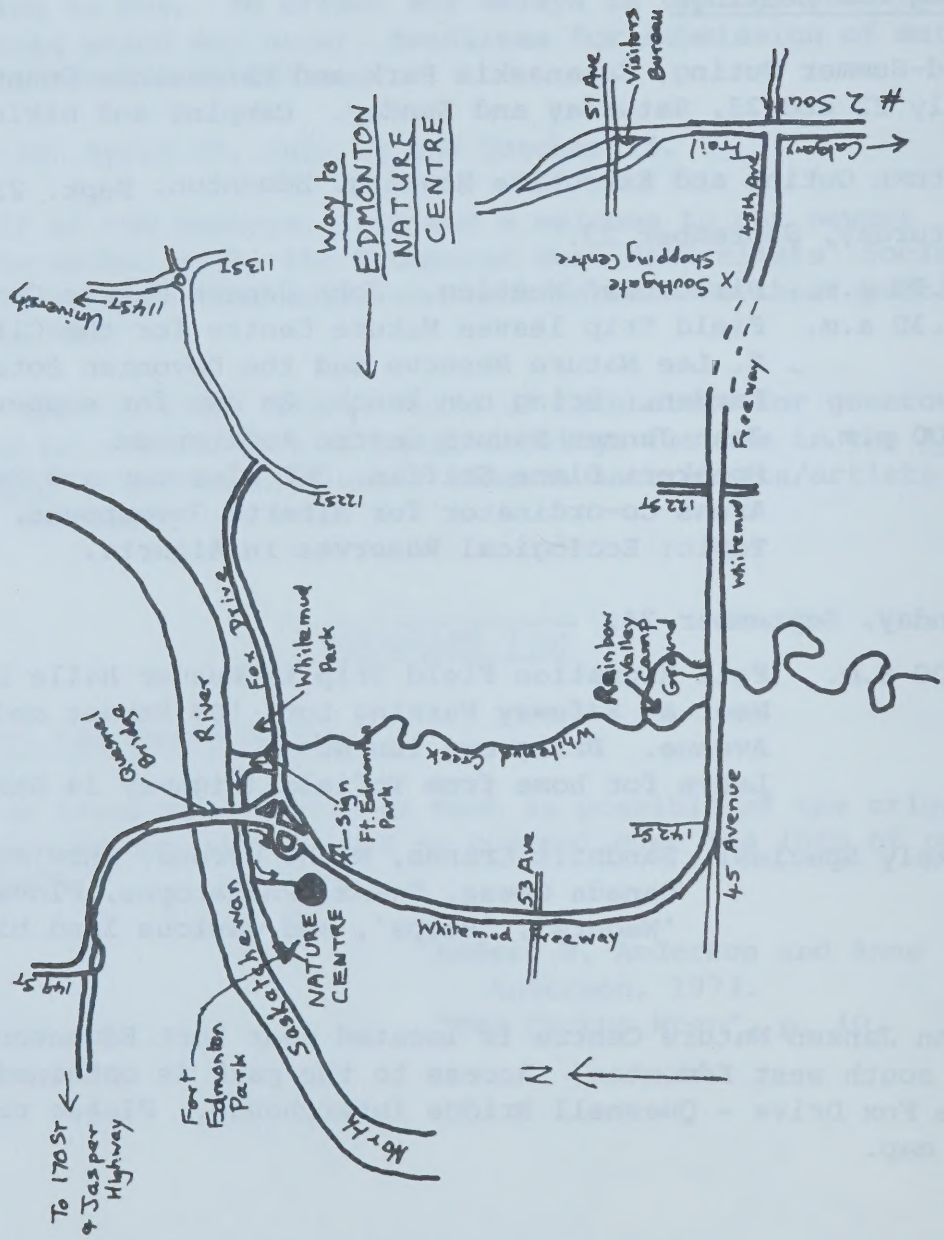
10.30 a.m. Directors' Meeting. John Janzen Nature Centre. *
10.30 a.m. Field Trip leaves Nature Centre for the Clifford E. Lee Nature Reserve and the Devonian Botanical Garden. Bring own lunch. On own for supper.
7.00 p.m. John Janzen Nature Centre Auditorium.
Speaker: Diane Griffin, CNF Director and Natural Areas Co-ordinator for Alberta Government.
Topic: Ecological Reserves in Alberta.

Sunday, September 24.

9.00 a.m. Fall Migration Field Trip to Beaver Hills Lake. Meet at Safeway Parking Lot, 109 Street and 82 Avenue. Bring own lunch.
Leave for home from Tofield (Highway 14 East)

Likely Species: Sandhill Cranes, Night Herons, Snow and Canada Geese, Swans, Phalaropes, Plovers, 'Waders", 'Peeps', and various land birds.

* John Janzen Nature Centre is located near Fort Edmonton Park in south west Edmonton. Access to the park is obtained at the Fox Drive - Quesnell Bridge interchange. Please refer to map.


Way to
EDMONTON
NATURE
CENTRE
51 Ave
Visitors Bureau
#2 Sou
Calgary Trail
45th Ave
X Southgate Shopping Centre
Whitemud Freeway
113St
114St
University
122St
122 St
Whitemud Park
Fox Drive
River
Rainbow Valley Campground
Whitemud Creek
Ft. Edmonton Park
Ft. Edmonton Park
Channel Bridge
53 Ave
Whitemud Freeway
45 Avenue
142 St
NATURE CENTRE
Saskatchewan
Fort Edmonton Park
To 170 St & Jasper Highway
N

# FAN FIELD GATHERING, KANANASKIS PROVINCIAL PARK
## JULY 22 and 23, 1978

Location: Kananaskis Provincial Park, camping near Lower Kananaskis Lake

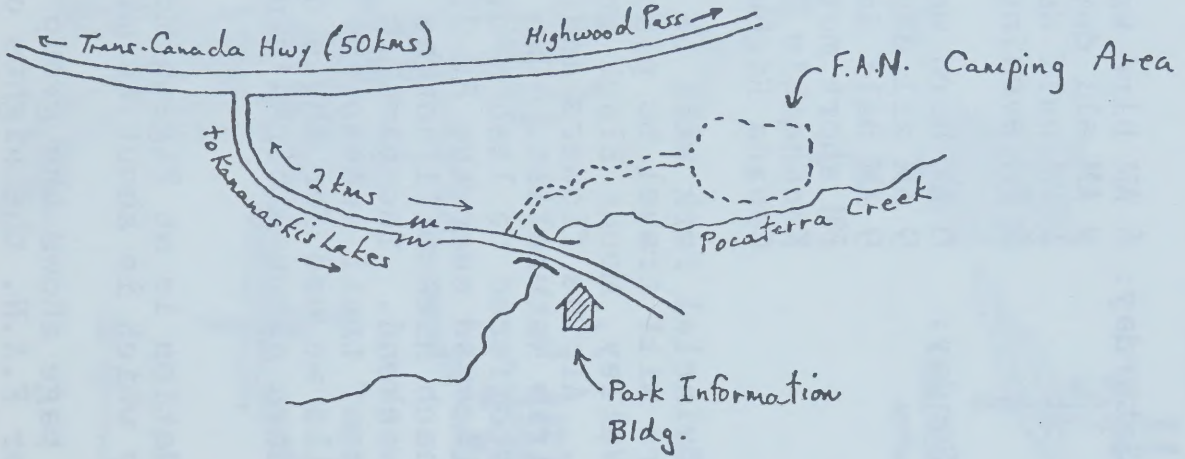
Field activities: Saturday: 6 AM bird walk
9 AM all day hike
1 PM half day hike
8 PM evening programme

Sunday: 6 AM bird walk
9 AM all day hike
9 AM half day hike
PM short motorcade trips Kananaskis Lake to Trans-Canada Highway

The new Kanaskis Provincial Park will be explored on this field outing. Hikers will travel to places such as Highwood Pass, Burstal Valley, Mount Black Prince cirque and Mount Indefatigable. Alpine flowers and birds will be of interest to the Prairie Naturalist. Dan Brunton, chief Park Naturalist, has offered to lead a hike in search of rare Alberta ferns located near the B. C. border. The actual location of each hike will not be determined until shortly before the weekend. The park is under development and the availability of trail access and parking will determine which trails we use for these outings. Join us at Kananaskis and learn about Alberta's new provincial park.

The nearest accommodation is at Pigeon Mountain on the Trans-Canada Highway which is about 40 miles from the Park.

The map on the next page shows the group camping area which has been reserved for F.A.N. the nights of July 21 and 22, 1978.




Note: entrance road rough & one lane only - please check with Information Building before entering.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE 24TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by
David Ealey

The success of the FAN winter Annual General Meeting hopefully will be demonstrated during the coming year in the productive and energetic efforts of the membership. The establishment of a new executive and other new blood in director positions and as chairmen of standing committees provides fresh energy which, with the direction of the "old hands", promises an interesting 1978.

I am sure all those who attended the March 10 - 12 meeting (there were 81 registered) will agree that Camp Caroline provided a relaximg atmosphere. We were treated to mild weather and a pretty, fresh snowfall during our stay. Many of use were forced to merely gaze wistfully at the pleasant scene during the marathon business session. I certainly began to appreciate the considerable efforts that the executive and directors have contributed in the past.

A new corporate member was accepted - the Trumpeter Swan Naturalists. This brings to 10 the number of corporate members in FAN. A new executive was elected and several new directors were appointed. There are now an editor, an assistant editor, and several associate editors involved in producing the Alberta Naturalist. In addition to the appointment of new chairmen of some standing committees, a membership committee was established. Terry Thormin chairs this committee and expects to institute a vigorous membership drive. There were nearly 470 individual, corporate and institution members of FAN in 1977. The present strong financial position of our federation suggests that this is a good time to press forward and to actively solicit new memberships as well as make increased conservation efforts.

A number of resolutions were passed which largely were in support of government environmental committees. The feeling was expressed that more resolutions need to be submitted from the membership at large, as this is an effective way of voicing concern over environmental issues. The most meaningful resolutions are those that

Grazing Reserve, raising of water level on Lake Newell and effect on pelican and cormorant colonies, fish problems on Pigeon Lake, possible effluent problems on Battle Lake, Coyote concerns, and follow-up on a number of 1976 resolutions.

Other topics concerning the environment are looked at by the other Study Groups: Energy, Non-renewable Resources, Renewable Resources, Pollution, and Urban Environment. If Directors and members wish to have further information on the activities of these other Study Groups or of the Science Advisory Committee and the Environmental Education Committee I will try and supply it or indicate a source to contact. Chris Dunkley of the CFNS is currently the Chairman of the Non-renewable Resources Study Group and Francis Schultz of LNS is a member of the Environmental Education Committee.

The coordinating committee had a good session with Mr. Crerar and other members of the E.C.A in January and have a roles document for the Public Advisory Committee on the Environment (PAC) almost ready for approval. The forestry hearings are well underway and the Renewable Resources Study Group will be presenting a brief in Edmonton on the topic. I hope FAN and individual clubs will also be presenting or submitting briefs. Plans are well advanced for public hearings possibly in the spring of 1979 on impact of expanding urban areas on the biophysical environment which should be of interest to all clubs as they will consider all incorporated entities from a summer village up to the large cities under the term urban environment.

John M. Powell
March 3, 1978

## OVERHEARD (79)

Naturalists' terror

"Man's ability and readiness to thoughtlessly manipulate his surroundings with utter disregard for future effects is indeed frightening to contemplate".

W.Ray Salt and Jim R. Salt, 1976.
"The birds of Alberta", p. 97.

## ALBERTA ECOLOGICAL SURVEY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

One half-day meeting of the Alberta Ecological Survey (AES) was held during the last year, on December 8, 1977; another meeting should be scheduled in early April. The AES this last year has been busy documenting the Ecological Reserve Nominations that were approved at a November 1976 meeting for submissions to the Government through the Alberta Department of Energy and Natural Resources. At the time of the meeting eight of the recent nominations had been submitted. The current issue of the AES Newsletter (No. 11-February 1978) provides a brief description of these 8 nominations and lists the 14 that have been nominated by the AES or its predecessor, the Alberta Panel of the Conservation Terrestrial portion of the International Biological Program (IBP-CT). This latest AES Newsletter will be sent to the MLA's in the hope that it will provide background information in support of the hoped for Government legislation to give protection for Ecological Reserves. Such legislation already exists in British Columbia, New Brunswick and Quebec, and a bill is ready for enactment this spring in Nova Scotia. The status of protection for natural ecosystems in other areas of Canada is outlined in a September 1977 Newsletter of the Associate Committee on Ecological Reserves (ACER) sponsored by the National Research Council of Canada. The ACER were to meet in January 1978 to consider setting up a secretariat, possibly under the Department of Fisheries and Environment.

Other items discussed included a brief report of the activities of the Natural Areas Committee of the Government by the new Coordinator, Diana Griffin who hopes to attend our Camp Caroline meeting; a report by the new AES part-time coordinator Bob Ellis; a report on the biogeoclimatic zonation study sponsored by the Alberta and Canadian Forest Services; a report by John Stelfox, Canadian Wildlife Service on Suffield grazing; and a request to support the work of the Pelican Portage Group. Examples were given where Provincial Government land taxation policies are encouraging misuse of land: land which is marginal for agriculture but which may be important for recreation as a natural area or for maintenance of stream quality being taxed as agricultural land. The AES had some success in 1977 to obtain funding to continue its

work of evaluating candidate ecological areas but no long-term funding had been found. The map of candidate natural areas is to be updated; the map is available through the Canadian Petroleum Association in Calgary.

I hope most of the clubs will receive the latest AES Newsletter, and that the clubs and individual members will support the AES and encourage the Government to bring forth legislation to establish an ecological reserves system in Alberta.

John M. Powell
March 1, 1978

## FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Since the last report (Jan. 24, 1977) I have attended 4 days of meetings of the Advisory Committee which meets twice a year. The spring meeting in 1977 included discussion of the minor changes made in the 1977 Sportfishing Regulations, problems in obtaining supplies of trout eggs, highlights of the 1976 fall hunting season including status of populations, and proposed 1977 bird and big game hunting boundary changes -- the latter dealt with by species. Other items covered included Buck for Wildlife projects indicated on maps; the brochure "Hunting in Alberta -- Where to Go"; compensation for destroying of trap lines; recommended Game Hunting Regulation changes, road allowances and road hunting; year-round carrying of guns in vehicles and loaded firearms; and the role of the Advisory Council.

The fall meeting took place over 2 days, Oct. 26-27, allowing for greater discussion on a number of topics. These included for fisheries the recent Canada Fisheries Act Amendments, Bill C138, proposed Alberta Fisheries Regulation Amendments, fish import and stocking program status including problems that developed with chlorine at the Calgary Fish Hatchery, and the Sportfishing Survey evaluation. A possible hunting licence fee structure for Alberta was discussed and the format of the hunting regulations brochure (this was compared with those in use in British Columbia and Manitoba). The proposed changes in Wildlife Amendments Act, 1977,

Bill 51 were discussed. These included changes in some definitions of wildlife (now includes amphibians and reptiles), the collecting of eggs and nests, privately owned land, an ability to manage land for habitat, to acquire land, addition of park officers for enforcement, and provides for the issuing of voluntary appearance notices and fines instead of mandatory court appearances and suspension for "minor" hunting offences. The Act came into force on February 1st, 1978 and all clubs should obtain a copy. The present situation and possible future direction of regulations concerning vandalism, trespass and access were discussed including support for a brief of the Municipal Districts and Counties Association relative to the need to deal with vandalism on public property. There was also a motion concerning privately owned land and public land and trespass rights. A proposal for hunter testing and certification programs were discussed and voted on, also a motion for enforcement officers to carry sidearms (later turned down). The pilot project of the Wildlife Habitat Program in Red Deer County with funding coming from Bucks for Wildlife was discussed.

The recent meeting on March 2, 1978 briefly covered some concerns of the members. Uppermost perhaps was a concern for the budget of the Fish and Wildlife Division not being adequate to deal with problems and enforcement. Some of the problems include coyote and beaver, assessment of areas of responsibility between Federal and Provincial governments, environmental state of wildlife habitat, problems of vandalism, increasing abuse of CB radios, problem wildlife, free-ranging dogs harassing wildlife, electrocution of hawks, owls and other birds on power poles, land use and pollution, and Indian Land claims. Policy discussions followed on colour clothing requirements for hunting with a proposal to drop the mandatory requirement to wear red or orange for big game hunting, -- no statistical evidence that use of a special colour reduces hunting accidents. Some changes proposed in hunting licence fees but a need to develop some sort of consistency in western Canada and to produce a philosophy concerning fees. Estimated that $255,000,000.00 comes to the Province annually from hunting, angling and non-consumptive use of wildlife, and the licence revenue is

equivalent to only about a half of the Fish and Wildlife Division budget. There was considerable discussion about coyote management with review of a series of recommendations, this including who can kill coyotes, how and when, greater protection for dens, and use of dogs for coyote hunting. A licence allocation package was reviewed and also the question of special hunting privileges for physically handicapped persons. Other items concerned possible changes in the big game regulations for 1978 involving areas and seasons. This included a program to alleviate the problem of a high elk and moose population in the Cypress Hill and adjacent area. Also a first step will be taken by the Minister to introduce a voluntary hunter testing program with a mandatory testing for suspended hunters wishing to requalify.

On March 15 there will be a meeting to discuss the "Buck for Wildlife Program" for 1978. Now that FAN has opted for $1.00 of the membership fee going to this program starting in 1978, and has already made contributions during the last two years along with other naturalists clubs, the Fish and Wildlife Division would welcome suggestions for projects which will improve wildlife habitat or retain habitat for non-game species.

John M. Powell
March 3, 1978

## REPORT OF THE LAND USE COMMITTEE

This committee has dealt with any items that were not handled by the other Standing Committees.

One brief was presented to the E.C.A. at the Red Deer River Dam Hearings and we supported the brief written by the Pelican Portage Group, advocating protection for the breeding colony of pelicans near the Slave River Rapids.

We have been very concerned over the future of Suffield. Letters were written by my committee and by the Wilderness, Parks and Natural Areas Committee, to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Minister of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife in Alberta, requesting that the portion of the South Saskatchewan

River flowing through Suffield be taken into the Wild Rivers Program under the Agreement for Recreation and Conservation. The replies were interesting, Mr. Allmand indicated Parks Canada would be pleased to participate in a joint feasibility and planning program with the Government of Alberta. Mr. Adair from Alberta said they had already had discussions with Parks Canada and proposals had been made but Parks Canada had not followed them up. To try to clear up the confusion, I sent each Minister a copy of the other one's letter. Mr. Adair tersely replied that everything was as he previously stated. Mr. Allmand repeated that he would like to incorporate Suffield into the program but the Province had to make the first move, at this point I gave up.

The Gaetz Lake Sanctuary problem has also turned into a bitter disappointment. The Sanctuary Committee has been meeting for several years and consultants were hired by the Provincial Government to study the Sanctuary and make recommendations. They produced a brochure recommending preserving the Sanctuary and incorporating the surrounding privately owned land into a park which was sent to the Minister and the cabinet before being made public. Almost immediately after the recommendations reached the cabinet, the privately owned land was purchased by land speculators from Edmonton and it is now being offered for sale at an exorbitant price. The committee is now in a quandary: if we press for preservation of the Sanctuary we will line the pockets of the greedy, an ironical situation.

Letters have also gone out from this committee supporting the National Indian Brotherhoods' concerns over arsenic effluents and emissions from the mines in Yellowknife. We successfully protested proposals to build an airport at Mazeppa near Frank Lake and we are watching for developments on Lake Newell. We supported the Dodds Roundhill Protective Association and I attended an angry protest meeting over the Red Deer River Dam issue. Mr. Russell gave an admirable performance and Mr. Doan, the M.L.A. for the area only succeeded in confirming everyones suspicions about the real reason for the dam.

I also attended a meeting organized by the Alberta Fish and Game

Association in Edmonton to try to prevent the Provincial Government from re-structuring the E.C.A. A coalition of groups was formed, called the Committee for Environmental Public Participation, and as you know, it was unsuccessful, probably because it waited too long before acting.

I attended a week-long seminar in Banff sponsored by the E.C.A. People came from Eastern Canada, England and the U.S.A. to talk on Public Participation but I felt that it was really aimed at teaching the administrators how to handle the public. Nevertheless I learned their techniques. I met many interesting people and I was able to publicize the name of the Federation. I intend to write a more detailed account of the proceedings when I receive all the literature.

I recently attended a meeting of the Problem Wildlife Committee in Edmonton and I presented FAN's views on the subject. They are enclosed with this report and I will appreciate hearing your comments.

This committee could extend its scope if each club would forward any concerns it might have related to Land Use.

Dorothy Broadbent,
Chairman.

## OVERHEARD (80)

Flycatchers

"Some of us are beginning to get the sneaking suspicion that maybe the local populations of Willow and Alder were somehow not notified they are separate species".

Dr. James Haw, 1975.
American Birds 29: 981.

## REPORT ON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE CLIFFORD E. LEE NATURE PRESERVE

by
Graeme Greenlee, FAN Representative

It was reported at the FAN 1977 Fall Directors' Meeting that 140 acres of land near Devon, Alberta have been purchased by the Lee Foundation for lease to the Canadian Nature Federation as a nature preserve and bird sanctuary. This is a brief summary indicating the objectives in purchasing the land, some of the proposed terms of lease of the property, FAN's involvement, and activities of the management committee to date.

Management of the preserve will be the responsibility of the CNF through its management committee in accordance with the following basic objectives:

a) to provide individuals associated with organizations sympathetic to the goals of the Canadian Nature Federation with an opportunity for unstructured activities such as bird watching, photography, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and perhaps canoeing.

b) to preserve an extensive wetland ecosystem and thereby maintain within an urbanized area a significant waterfowl and shorebird habitat.

c) to provide structured interpretive programs which are formulated to take advantage of the special natural features of the reserve in order to create an ecological perspective in the school children of the Edmonton area and to further the development of leaders in outdoor recreation, biology teachers and others who might influence the environmental perceptions of young Canadians.

d) to obtain experience on the extent of compromise which must be struck between the two major uses of the preserve: nature preservation on the one hand and nature interpretation on the other.

The management committee shall be responsible for the operation and

management of the preserve in the best way they see fit to accomplish these objectives. The committee shall consist of eight individuals as follows:

a) a member from the Edmonton Natural History Club.
b) a member from the Edmonton Bird Club.
c) a member from the Edmonton Chapter of the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada.
d) a member from the Federation of Alberta Naturalists.
e) a member from the Alberta Fish and Game Association.
f) a member from the Outdoor and Environmental Education Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association.
g) a member from the County of Parkland Acreage Owners' Association
h) a member from the County of Parkland Parks and Recreation Department.

Each member will be appointed by the group he is representing and will hold office for two years. An alternate should be designated to replace a member, if necessary. A member may be returned for any number of terms at the discretion of his organization.

The management committee met recently and discussed activities to be pursued during the summer of 1978. These include fencing, a large sign indicating the location of the preserve, possible location for a parking lot, and possible inventorying of the natural features of the preserve.

## OVERHEARD (81)

### Seasonal naturalists

"To the more dedicated students of nature, observing animals is more than summer strolls and fall canoe trips. Winter camping provides a new horizon . . ."

Hap Wilson, 1977
Nature Canada 6(1): 42.

# REPORT BY THE FAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION

by
Mary S. Lore

Attended the conference in Regina, August 23 - 29, 1977.

Attended all the business meetings and most of the sessions. Presented my detailed report in writing at the Sept./77 FAN meeting.

1. Requested the CNF president write to the Premier of Alberta regarding our concern over the proposed abolition of the Environment Conservation Authority. The president wrote a letter in late Sept. to the premier, but the premier did not acknowledge the letter.

Asked the minister of the Parks, Hon. Warren Allmand about the type of control which would be practiced at Sunshine Ski area. 1. Would the runs previously proposed for virgin slopes be removed and was told yes, that no runs would be with lifts on virgin slopes, 2. Would a limit of 3000 people per day be practiced and was told "yes", 3. Would the overnight facilities be limited and the sanitation re human waste problems be improved and was told that no additional overnight accommodation was being proposed.

(Mike McIver advised that the answers to questions 1 and 2 were incorrect)

2. I represented the Canadian Nature Federation at the Protest March organized by "PARKS FOR TOMORROW" at Banff, Sunday, October 23, 1977, and participated in the march and delivered a brief message on behalf of C.N.F., which had been sent to me by Environmental consultant for C.N.F., Ric Pratt.

3. Attended a meeting representing C.N.F. and FAN and C.N.F.S

on Sunday, January 29 for Parks for Tomorrow in connection with a suggested law suit against the government in connection with gross contravention of present parks policy to preserve the parks from destruction.

Steve Herrero phoned me that he had announced to the public that there were organizations interested in supporting the law suit against the government and parks directives such as the Sunshine development. He mentioned C.N.F., so I in turn called the president that this was the reason C.N.F. had been mentioned, and it was a news item which appeared in eastern newsapapers and the media as well.

I talked to Dan Brunton, Canmore and others on a one-to-one basis about C.N.F. activities.

I am acting as a distributor for C.N.F cards and calendars and sold 150 calendars and have cards on hand. The profits are small but will go to the Jr. Naturalists in Calgary which will be appreciated. I distributed FAN brochures in Regina. I also have CNF brochures now for anyone who would like them.

I have paid my own expenses to Regina C.N.F. conference.

I plan to attend the C.N.F. Conference, August 17 - 21, 1978, in Charlottetown, P.E.I. and hope to get to many of the places I have not seen through their field trip program.

## CLUB NEWS

### Trumpeter Swan Naturalists Society News

The executive for the Trumpeter Swan Naturalists Society, which is the newest FAN corporate member, are listed below:

President - Yvonne MacAlister, 766-2467, R.R.#2, Grande Prairie, Alta. T8V 2Z9.
Secretary - Ellen Craig, R.R. #1, Wembley, Alta. TOH 3SO.
Vice-President - Earl Stamm, Box 516, Grande Prairie, Alta. T8V 3A7.
Treasurer - Ellen Brown, 354-2492. Box 664, Beaverlodge, Alta. TOH OCO
Recording Secretary - Lorna Dahl, R.R. 31, Wembley, Alta. TOH 3SO.
Newsletter Editor - Joan Yates, Box 33, Site 1, Buffalo Lakes, Alta TOH OMO

Yvonne MacAlister and Ellen Brown are the acting directors to FAN.

Our Society's address is:

Trumpeter Swan Naturalists Society,
c/o Ellen Craig,
R.R. #1, Wembley, Alta TOH 3SO

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dan Brunton recently raised a controversial question when he criticized Kerry Wood for referring to sparrows, starlings, and magpies as undesirable birds. This is a very important issue which naturalists should resolve. Anyone who has tried to attract native birds to their nest boxes will have done battle with sparrows and starlings.

Kerry was the person who first introduced me to the joys of attracting birds to one's home. Our first attempt yielded one box of tree swallows which has now grown to a great flock of mosquito eaters. The odd pair of Bluebirds will also come when they can find an empty box.

We have to watch our nest boxes constantly to prevent sparrows completely taking over. Despite a variety of traps and a couple of guns, we still find swallows pecked to death and sparrow nests built on top of the corpses. So far this year we have found two dead and one injured swallow.

Last year we were concerned because our Bluebirds had begun to increase in numbers and needed a wider range of nest boxes. We tried to start a bluebird trail on neighbors' land. It was a frustrating experience and we finally had to abandon this project. The more boxes we put up, the more sparrows came to fill them. We destroyed nests but they were rebuilt faster than we could tear them out. We sat in grain fields for hours with a gun at the ready. We even hard boiled their eggs but nothing stopped them.

No Bluebirds nested successfully on our trail. Our delight at seeing a pair of these beautiful birds start to nest was time and

and time again turned to bitter disappointment when we returned to find yet another pair of indestructible sparrows had taken over.

Our Martin house has now adorned our yard for over seven years. It stands as an empty monument to man's stupidity. Native birds cannot compete with introduced species. Martins are no match for starlings and many times we have watched powerless as Martins have been driven away from our house by starlings, even though we shot every starling that tried to nest in it. This again was a frustrating experience, as an envious flock of them was hanging around, hoping something would happen to the present occupant of the house. The next one down in the pecking order was only too willing to try his luck at nest building.

It is no wonder that our native birds are declining in numbers. Sparrows and starlings are merciless to all the hole nesting birds. Naturalists are probably the only people who realize and understand the gravity of this situation. We observe the large flocks of starlings returning every spring to nest in Alberta. We know that sparrows can survive the winter in barns and granaries. We know that the magpie was unable to exist this far north before the white man came with his garbage and carrion. We also know that the magpie is smart enough to locate the nests of most of the birds in his territory and help himself to eggs and fledglings when the parents are away.

Our native birds are suffering terribly from this artificial im-balance and we naturalists are the only people aware of the situation. We should be urging municipal governments to educate land owners and institute some means of control of these pests. They are not native and cannot be considered as part of nature any more than feral cats can be regarded as part of our natural environment.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Broadbent
R.R. #4
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 5E4

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This is my first contribution to this page and I will, of necessity, be brief, in a reflection of the length of time since I was elected. I am looking forward to my term as President and intend to work as hard as possible on your behalf. We are fortunate in F.A.N. to have a very diverse and energetic group of directors, all of whom I am sure will make my job much easier.

It would be remiss of me not to say a word of appreciation to the retiring directors and executive. Anyone who has not sat through (I almost said suffered) a Board of Directors' meeting would have no idea of the amazing number of issues with which F.A.N. is involved, nor of the kind of commitment that some of our people make to this organization. Directors are almost always extremely busy people who have seen a need and stepped in to provide as much help and time as they can afford. Our thanks should go to those Directors and members of the executive who have served their terms, along with our hope that they will retain an active and sustaining interest in F.A.N.

I must say a special word about Dorothy Broadbent. Dorothy spent the past two and a half years as our President and during that time she worked extremely hard and effectively to carry the word of the Federation forward. She was often in the position of having to do things herself because there was no one else available who could or would do them. Her dedication and concern should be an example for us all. I would like to be able to tell you that Dorothy is enjoying her retirement, but we didn't let her off the hook. She will be continuing as the Chairman of our Land Use Committee, she will be responsible for the environmental aspects of the Alberta Naturalist and as Past President she will continue to provide valued advice to me and other members of the executive. In fact, even as I am writing this, I know that she and Lyman Matthews are attending a meeting in Red Deer on F.A.N.'s behalf. So, thanks Dorothy, and best wishes.

The best news to come out of our very enjoyable and worthwhile annual general meeting at Camp Caroline in March, was that we had gained a new corporate member club. The Trumpeter Swan Naturalists Society of the Grande Prairie area had made application to become members of the Federation and it was the pleasant duty of Dorothy Broadbent to

inform them that the Board of Directors had unanimously accepted their application. On behalf of F.A.N. I would like to welcome the Trumpeter Swan Naturalists Society with the hope that our association will be long and stimulating and useful.

## CONSERVATION NEWS

### ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

The following article is a reprint of an editorial by William A. Fuller and George H. La Roi which appeared in the Alberta Ecological Survey Newsletter Number #11, of February 1978. F.A.N. has recently expressed its support for a system of Ecological Reserves in Alberta, to Premier Lougheed and every other Member of the Legislative Assembly.

On March 6th, Mr. Gordon Stromberg, M.L.A. for Camrose introduced a private member's bill entitled "The Ecological Reserves Act" into the legislature. Debate was adjourned on second reading of Bill 202 sending it to the bottom of the order paper where it will not be heard from again during spring session. As with most private member's bills, Bill 202 has only a slim chance of success even if it is re-introduced in the fall session. However, according to Robert A. Ellis, Coordinator of the Alberta Ecological Survey, "Bill 202 has been most useful as a vehicle on which to focus public attention. It is the hope of A.E.S. that the Alberta government can be persuaded to adopt Bill 202 as a government bill, or set up its own legislation" Individual letters of support to one's own M.L.A. and the following would be very helpful.

Hon. Dallas W. Schmidt, Associate Minister
Alberta Energy and Natural Resources
126 Legislative Bldg.,
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Hon. Donald R. Getty
Minister, Energy and Natural Resources
319 Legislative Bldg.,
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Hon. J. Allen Adair
Minister, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife
107 Legislative Bldg.,
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Further information about Ecological Reserves can be obtained from the Alberta Ecological Survey in care of the Department of Botany, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB. T6G 2E9.

## ALBERTA NEEDS AN ECOLOGICAL RESERVES SYSTEM NOW

*The Government of Alberta should take the necessary measures now to establish a representative network of Ecological Reserves across the province, and should, without further delay, enact legislation to guarantee their long-term protection and usefulness.*

This is the conclusion reached by the Alberta Ecological Survey (AES), a voluntary, non-profit organization of natural resource scientists from federal and provincial government agencies, universities and industry. Since 1974 AES has continued a program of natural ecosystem conservation started by the International Biological Program in 1968. Its chief aims are to find, survey, and evaluate the better remaining examples of natural ecosystems in the province; to nominate the best of these to appropriate governments for permanent protection in Ecological Reserves; and to suggest guidelines for their proper management and use for educational and scientific purposes, thereby serving the long-term welfare of Albertans.

Alberta, with its wide range of climate, topography, geology and soils, supports a diverse array of natural plant and animal communities. The distribution, abundance, biological productivity and varied uses of these native ecosystems have been instrumental in shaping the history of human settlement and patterns of resource development in the province. These ecosystems constitute a priceless natural heritage of our past, and have immense untapped potential for our future. Excellent examples of these should be preserved and protected for the benefit of present and future generations of Albertans.

The development and exploitation of natural resources, both living and non-living, have brought huge material benefits to Albertans and other Canadians. But the transformation of the natural landscape to a cultural one has been costly too. Many animal and plant species, including potentially useful ones, are rapidly declining in abundance and becoming locally extinct because their native habitats are being systematically destroyed. We simply cannot afford to let this process of replacing complex natural ecosystems with simply cultural ones go to completion. The best remaining examples deserve to survive.

A carefully chosen province-wide network of Ecological Reserves will guarantee that no part of Alberta will be totally depleted of its diversity of natural ecosystems. The land area required to achieve this important objective is modest in relation to the many benefits to be derived and would be less than 0.5% of the province. Unlike large National Parks or Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves will be distributed evenly across the province so that no constituency will feel imposed upon or left out of the picture.

Ecological Reserves have high practical importance. They serve as environmental monitoring sites or benchmarks against which we can measure and compare man's influences. Ecological Reserves are also outdoor laboratories for natural resource research and education, that is, places where the structure, function and stability of ecosystems can be studied on a long-term and intensive basis. Such research is essential for proper management of our renewable resources. Fossil energy may provide us the lead time necessary to use our renewable sources of energy more effectively, but we must use that lead time wisely, and Ecological Reserves can help us do so.

British Columbia, Quebec and New Brunswick now have Ecological Reserves legislation, and Nova Scotia has a bill ready for enactment this spring. British Columbia is justifiably proud of its 83 formally recognized Ecological Reserves.

The AES and its predecessor have worked closely with the interdepartmental Natural Areas Committee (NAC) of the Alberta Government since 1968. Some tangible progress has been made, as can be seen in the Ecological Reserve nominations excerpted in this Newsletter. But in view of the AES much more needs to be done to achieve the major object-

ives, and time is short.

The degree of protection available under existing legislation is definitely inadequate. Appeals and recommendations for legislative action have been made repeatedly since 1970. We know that a draft of an acceptable Ecological Reserves Bill has been "under consideration" for almost four years now by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. Yet no initiative has been taken by that Department to introduce this vital bill to the Legislative Assembly. Nor has the Department responded in any other substantive manner to our nominations of outstanding areas for Ecological Reserve status. Several of these key areas are now in great danger because they have no real protection in law.

Ecological Reserves should be not confused with National or Provincial Parks. The latter can and do preserve certain kinds of natural ecosystems, but primarily in regions of great scenic beauty, because they are intended mainly for non-destructive outdoor recreation. Thus the existing Parks in Alberta contain an incomplete sample of our heritage of natural ecosystems. The basic strategy of the Alberta Ecological Reserves System is to preserve, manage and use a representative sample of Alberta's natural ecosystems as these occur across the province, for educational and scientific purposes, not recreation. Alberta needs this System now, as a sound investment for the future.

William A. Fuller
George H. La Roi

## NOTES AND NEWS

### Canadian Nature Federation Conference

The 1978 Canadian Nature Federation Conference will be held at Charlottetown, P.E.I., August 17-21. The theme is "Nature in the Gulf: Island, Man and Sea". For further information write: CNF Conference 1978, P.O. Box 2346, Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 8C1.

Arnica Adventure

Arnica Adventure offers guided canoeing/backpacking tours in the Kootenay Region of B.C., June - October. Prices are reasonable, group discounts are available. For information write: Arnica Adventure, R.R. #1, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5P4.

Robin Data Requested

A three-year study (1978-1980) of American Robins is underway. Information required includes arrival, peak migration and departure dates, dates of nesting, clutch sizes, latest nesting dates for 1978-1980. Also earliest and latest arrivals, departure dates, etc., from previous years. If you can help write: Rev. R. Charles Long, Research Associate, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 71 Meadowlily Road, London, Ontario N5W 1B7.

OVERHEARD (82)

Art

"Art that is to endure, must always draw its strength from nature . . . "

Clarence Tillenius, 1977
quoted in Calgary Field Nat. 8:200

OVERHEARD (83)

Awards of Research

"It is satisfying to know that we need not remain forever baffled by all phenomena that seem to be beyond explanation".

Lawrence David Kusche, 1975
"The Bermuda Triangle Mystery Solved",
p. 292.

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Deadlines for submission of material are: January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15. Please include your address. All maps and charts should be submitted on white paper, of the appropriate size for publication, preferably typed or in india ink. Black and white slides, photographs or drawings are welcomed.

FAN membership fees are: regular--$4.00 per year; supporting--$10.00 or more per year, with the excess over $4.00 being deductible from taxable income. Mail remittance to: Federation of Alberta Naturalists, Box 1472, Alberta T5J 2N5. All members now contribute to Bucks for Wildlife, as FAN now contributes $1.00 of each membership fee to this fund.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Send to:

Federation of Alberta Naturalists,
Box 1472, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N5.

NAME _____ (please print)

ADDRESS _____

_____ (postal code)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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